SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
NEWS BULLETIN

Number 185 $ Fall 2003

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— OFFICIAL BUSINESS —

NEW REGIONAL EDITORS

We have two new regional editors. Dennis R. Ruiz, Jr., has graciously stepped forward to accept the position of Southwest Regional Editor for the *News Bulletin*. He replaces Chris Bell who has served the Society admirably in this position for several years. Please send all future southwest regional news items to Dennis at ruez@mail.utexas.edu.

Not to be outdone, Josh Smith has agreed to take over the midwest editorial duties from Glenn Storrs. Glenn has held the post for a number of years and his efforts are gratefully appreciated. All future news items for the midwest region may be sent to Josh at smithjb@levee.wustl.edu.

Join us in welcoming our two new regional editors, and in a round of hearty huzzahs to Chris and Glenn for jobs well done!

— NEW MEMBERS —

Adolfssen, Jan
Dals Lands Gade 8 F801
Copenhagen 2300-S
Denmark
+45-3288-6593
janadolfssen@yahoo.com

Allen, David
921 Normal Rd #206
De Kalb IL 60115
(815) 793-2052
f/(815) 753-0461
daveallen24@yahoo.com

Anton, Mauricio
C. Los Yebenes 56.3-C
Madrid 28047
Spain
+34-91-7194222
mfanton@terra.es

Arakawa, Yohei
Department of Earth & Planetary Systems Sciences
Graduate School of Science
Hiroshima University
1-3-1 Kagamiyama
Higashi-Hiroshima
Hiroshima 739-8526
Japan
+81-824-24-7469
f/+81-824-24-0735
yara@hiroshima-u.ac.jp

Avanzini, Marco
Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali via Calepina 14
Trento I-38100
Italy
+39-0461-270-311
f/+39-0461-270-376
avanzini@mtsn.tn.it

Baalke, Joseph
512 Avon Dr
Norman OK 73072
joseph.h.baalke@noaa.gov

Berriochoa, Agustin
C/Iparraguirre 4 30D
Bilbao
Vizcaya ES-48009
Spain
+34-94-446-7858
amberriotxoa@navegalia.com

Bindon, John
Bindon Illustration
1241 Nottingham Ave
Burlington ON L7P 2R5
Canada
(905) 319-3977
f/(905) 319-3977
jbindon@bindonart.com

Binko, Julie
568 S Smith
St Paul MN 55107
(651) 290-2495
jbinko@sprintmail.com

Bouetel, Virginie
Laboratoire de Paléontologie
8 rue Buffon
Paris 75005
France
+33-01-40-79-30-01
f/+33-01-40-79-35-80
vbouetel@hotmail.com

Brusatte, Stephen
3 Shady Lane
Ottawa IL 61350
(815) 433-4742
brusatte@uchicago.edu

Butler, Richard
Department of Earth Sciences
Cambridge CB2 3EQ
United Kingdom
+44-1233-333446
richardjbutler56@hotmail.com

Cabral-Perdomo, Miguel
Museo de Paleontología UAEH
Pachuca
Hidalgo M-42184
Mexico
+52-771-717-2000 x6715
f/+52-771-717-2000 x2112
cabralma@uaeh.reduaeh.mx

Campione, Nicolas
2415-25 Southvale Cr
Ottawa ON K1B 4T9
Canada
(613) 523-3011
f/(613) 248-1004
ncampion@connect.carleton.ca

Carney, Ryan
Paleontology
Department of Integrative Biology
University of California—Berkeley
P. O. Box 4578
Berkeley CA 94704-4578
(510) 644-3747
f/(510) 642-7434
rcarney@uclink.berkeley.edu

Carpenter, Nathan
385 Pebble Beach Way
Eagle ID 83616
(208) 939-4214
nate@paleopubs.com

Carroll, Merwyn
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
27940 Turner Heights Lane
Escondido CA 92026-7013
(760) 749-8949
f/(760) 749-4994
lctiffany@earthlink.net

Chesser, Elizabeth
700 College St #301
Beloit WI 53511-5509
(608) 346-0127
chessere@stu.beloit.edu

Christensen, Craig
1705 Charlott Ave
Missoula MT 59801
(406) 728-5344
bighawksfan@msn.com

Connour, Robert, II
Owens College
300 Davis St
Findlay OH 45840

Corrado, Courtney
2219 N Clifton Ave #3E
Chicago IL 60614-3533
(773) 316-9339
f/(773) 316-9339
courtney9732@hotmail.com

Costa Rica, Justin
915 44th St SW Apt 106
Fargo ND 58103
(701) 282-9112
paleopimp14@aol.com

Cuthbertson, Robin
94 Shepton Bay
Winnipeg MB R3R 2E9
Canada
(204) 895-7402
robin_cuthbertson@hotmail.com

Davis, Heather
1427 Van Buren St
Missoula MT 59802-3819
hdavis@selway.umt.edu

DeLoreto, Stephan
101 Sterling Pl
Highland NY 12528-2019
(845) 691-4918
fossilrecord@aol.com

Dengler, Alyce
2623 Cypress
Norman OK 73072
(405) 573-1869
sdengler@aol.com

Dennis, Grenda
47737 Devin Cir
Lexington Park MD 20653
(240) 725-7891
venusdolni@earthlink.net

Drewes, Glenn
6683 Fairway Lane
Highland CA 92346
(909) 425-8590
gdrewes@sbccd.cc.ca.us

England, Bryan
Department of Biology
College of Charleston
24 Formosa Dr
Charleston SC 29407-7405
(843) 446-5418
f/(843) 769-5732
bb_england@hotmail.com

Ervin, Rita
2978 S Bahama St
Aurora CO 80013
(720) 252-6078
f/(303) 846-2550

Fearnhead, Fiona
9 Winchester Rd Flat 3
London N9 9HA
United Kingdom
+44-20-8341-0139
fionafearnhead@aol.com

Folinsbee, Kaila
47 Seaforth
Toronto ON M6K 1N7
Canada
(416) 534-9950
kaila.folinsbee@utoronto.ca

Foreman, Brady
688 Woodridge Dr
Mendota Heights MN 55118
(651) 457-6455
bforeman@macalester.edu

Frazetti, Daryl
Department of Anthropology
Stevens 102
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb IL 60115
(815) 561-8973
flyboyncc1701@yahoo.com

Friedman, Matt
Department of Zoology
University Museum of Zoology
University of Cambridge
Cambridge CB2 3EJ
United Kingdom
+44-1223-336-649
f/+44-1223-336-679
msf22@cam.ac.uk

Fulton, Albert
113 E Squire Dr #1
Rochester NY 14623-1847
(585) 272-9888
afulton1@rochester.rr.com

Gaboardi, Mabry
3719 Shoreline Drive
Tallahassee FL 32305-7250
(850) 942-4113
f/(850) 942-4113
gaboardi@quartz.gly.fsu.edu

George, Christian
University of Texas—Austin
7117 Wood Hollow Dr #1516
Austin TX 78731
(512) 345-6843
cogeorge@mail.utexas.edu

George, Daniel
878 Greenville St
Pendleton SC 29670
(864) 646-5414
danielg@clemson.edu

Gerke, Oliver
Hauptstraße 58
Salzhemmendorf D-31020
Germany
oliver.gerke@t-online.de

Gignac, Paul
9 Robert Ave
Danielson CT 06239
(860) 933-4066
paul.gignac@mac.com

Goldstein, Robert
8714 21st Ave #C10
Brooklyn NY 11214
(718) 449-7855

Graff, Jon
2497 Alveswood Cir
San Jose CA 95131
(408) 262-9577
jongraff@earthlink.net

Haaramo, Mikko
Department of Geology
University of Helsinki
Ristiverajankatu 28
Nokia FIN-37120
Finland
+358-3-3411171
f/+358-4-08353195
mikko.haaramo@helsinki.fi

Hairapetian, Vachik
Department of Geology
Azad University
Khorasgan Branch
P. O. Box 81595-158
Esfahan
Iran
+98-311-625-3151
f/+98-311-521-1265
vachik@khuisf.ac.ir

Hall, John
2095 Hodesha Ct
Grand Junction CO 81503
(970) 244-8829
f/(970) 244-8829
john.f.hall@parsons.com

Hembree, Daniel
1301 W 24th St #N2
Lawrence KS 66046
(785) 312-7538
danhem@ku.edu

Hemmesch, Nikki
1856 S Leadville Ave
Boise ID 83706
(208) 841-3066
nthemmesch@hotmail.com

Hester, Patricia
1916 Madeira Dr NE
Albuquerque NM 87110
(505) 761-8786
f/(505) 761-8911
patricia_hester@blm.gov

Hirasawa, Tatsuya
City-Pal Nezu Apt 203
2-14-3 Nezu Bunkyo-Ku
Tokyo
Japan
+81-90-4711-0377
s35108@mail.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Hodnett, John-Paul
7204 E Tamara Dr
Tucson AZ 85730-1762
(520) 740-8571
sabershinobicat@hotmail.com

Hoffman, Jonathan
Department of Geological Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville FL 32611
(323) 244-8318
f/(323) 254-2652
hoffmanj@oxy.edu

House, H. Benjamin, II
326 Woodale Dr
Monroe LA 71203
(318) 345-3396
bhouse2@fastmail.fm

Janzic, Anita-Maria
201 Calder Rd
St Andrews MB R1A 4E3
Canada
(204) 785-9236
cutedinosaur@hotmail.com

Jette, Jamie
248 Painted Hills Rd
Bozeman MT 59715
(406) 582-0781
dustydino@aol.com

Johns, Marjorie
P. O. Box 220
Brentwood Bay BC V8M 1R3
Canada
(250) 652-8047
ppq@shaw.ca

Johnson, Susan
68 Lisa Dr
Egg Harbor City NJ 08215
(732) 905-8571
mastodonhunter@aol.com

Konishi, Takuya
402 Newton Pl
8515-112th St
Edmonton AB T6G 1K7
Canada
(780) 457-9131
tkonishi@ualberta.ca

Kripchak, Kristopher
2361 Shawnee Tr
Youngstown OH 44511
(330) 792-5124
mariusromanus@aol.com

LeBlanc, Eleanor
Department of Palaeobiology
Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park
Toronto ON M5S 2C6
Canada
(416) 586-5756
leblanc@interlog.com

Lepore, Taormina
9 Vincent Rd
Burlington MA 01803
(781) 229-0778
raptortalon2@yahoo.com

Lewandowski, Sharon
P. O. Box 42
4 Zinn Rd
Spofford NH 03462
(419) 354-7880
shaielew@yahoo.com

Liu, Jun
Geoscience 206E
61 Route 9 W
Palisades NY 10964
(845) 365-8621
f/(845) 365-8163
junliu@ldeo.columbia.edu

Lloyd, Graeme
Department of Earth Sciences
Wills Memorial Building
University of Bristol
Queens Rd
Bristol BS8 1RJ
United Kingdom
gl1903@bristol.ac.uk

Loughney, Katharine
Beloit College
700 College St
P. O. Box 33
Beloit WI 53511-5509
(608) 363-4402
loughney@stu.beloit.edu

Malyshkina, Tatiana
Institute of Geology and Geochemistry
UBRAS
Pochtoviy Pereulok, 7
Ekaterinburg 620151
Russia
+3432-710043
malyshkina@igg.uran.ru

Mansky, Chris
Blue Beach Fossil Museum
127 Blue Beach Rd
Hantsport NS B0P 1P0
Canada
(902) 684-9541
bbfossil@glinx.com

Masters, Simon
1309 Spring St #204
Madison WI 53715-1182
(608) 251-0498
simonmasters@yahoo.com

McGowen, Michael
Department of Biology
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Dr
San Diego CA 92182-4614
(619) 594-7432
mrmcgowen@aol.com

McHugh, Julia
7526 Clipping Cross Rd
Louisville KY 40241
(502) 228-4234
calabith@hotmail.com

Miller, Randall
New Brunswick Museum
277 Douglas Ave
St John NB E2K 1E5
Canada
(506) 643-2361
f/(506) 643-2360
millerrf@nb.aibn.com

Neiburger, Ellis
1000 North Ave
Waukegan IL 60085-2938
(847) 244-0292
eneiburger@cs.com

Nelson, James
P. O. Box 10
Timber Lake SD 57656-0010
(605) 865-3546
f/(605) 865-3787
timtopic@lakotanetwork.com

Newman, John
577 Paterno Dr #2
Harleysville PA 19438
(215) 513-1956
njohnhenryxii@aol.com

Ng-Thow-Hing, Victor
Department of Digital Human Modeling
Honda Research Institute USA
800 California St Ste 300
Mountain View CA 94041-2810
(650) 314-0428
f/(650) 314-0405
vng@honda-ri.com

Nicholls, Emma
The Farthings
Bolwling Alley Oving
Aylesbury
Bucks HP2 24HD
United Kingdom
+44-1296-641-209
f/+44-1296-640-040

Nolan, Thomas
4556 S Kittredge St
Aurora CO 80015
(303) 766-0480
tomcnolan@attbi.com

Nystuen, David
8445 Bacardi Ave
Inver Grove Heights MN 55077-3601
(651) 454-8471
egypt4@msn.com

O'Grady, Bevin
323 North Ave
Wood Ridge NJ 07075
(732) 565-9705
brogrady@hotmail.com

Pappas, John
269 Sharptown-Auburn Rd
Woodstown NJ 08098-2636
(732) 599-1342
mesodma@hotmail.com

Pereda-Suberbiola, Xabier
Dpto. de Estratigrafía y Paleontología
Facultad de Ciencias
Univ. del País Vasco/EHU
Apartado 644
Bilbao
Basque 48080
Spain
+34-94-6015953
f/+34-94-4648500
gpppesuf@lg.ehu.es

Peterson, Joseph
Burpee Museum of Natural History
1207 S Wall #203
Carbondale IL 62901
(618) 549-1999
paleo7@hotmail.com

Petrites, Anthony
16301 Cobbler Ct
Tinley Park IL 60477
aep0af@mizzou.edu

Platt, Brian
Department of Geology
University of Kansas
UU 105 Brittany Pl
Lawrence KS 66049
(785) 843-0749
bfplatt@ku.edu

Poirier, Michael
6549 Overlook Dr
Dallas TX 75227
(214) 388-3159
map_752@hotmail.com

Potapova, Olga
Quality Services
2416 Jackson Blvd
Rapid City SD 57702-3450
(605) 348-9490
f/(605) 721-0702
collection@mammothsite.com

Rezvyi, Anton
Faculty of Biology ang Soil Sciences
Universitetskaya Nab 7/9
St Petersburg 199034
Russia
+328-96-89
anton@isav.usz.pu.ru

Richmond, Dean
11507 Lennington Dr
Houston TX 77064
(281) 517-0543
f/(281) 894-7377
drrichmond@ev1.net

Rowland, Stephen
Department of Geoscience
University of Nevada
Box 454010
Las Vegas NV 89154-4010
(702) 895-3625
f/(702) 895-3262
rowland@ccmail.nevada.edu

Saarinen, Phyllis
2005 NW 24th Street
Gainesville FL 32605
(352) 375-1727
f/(352) 379-9734
saarinen@gnv.fdt.net

Saito, Masataka
699-1113 Higashidani 1476-7
Kamo-cho
Shimane Prefecture
Japan
+81-0854-49-6201
f/+81-0854-49-6201
saitom@bs.kkm.ne.jp

Salisbury, Steve
Department of Zoology and Entomology
University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072
Australia
+61-7-3365-8548
f/+61-7-3365-1655
s.salisbury@uq.edu.au

Sandau, Stephen
976 S 1600 W
Provo UT 84601-5420
(801) 377-2143
ssandau@hotmail.com

Schur, Stephanie
Museum of Comparative Zoology 117
26 Oxford St
Cambridge MA 02138-2902
(617) 496-9035
sschur@oeb.harvard.edu

Sham, Wing
Flat 9D Wealth Bldg
53-65 High St
Hong Kong
+852-9500-8824
leowsham@medscape.com

Simpson, Christine
703 S 11th Apt A
Bozeman MT 59715-4369
(406) 522-0091
boardbozeman@hotmail.com

Skutschas, Pavel
Faculty of Biology and Soil Sciences
Universitetskaya Nab 7/9
St Petersburg 199034
Russia
+328-96-89
skutchas@mail.ru

Smith, Nathan
121 Trowbridge Hall
University of Iowa
Iowa City IA 52242
(319) 335-1789
nathan-smith-1@uiowa.edu

Smith, Sean
Glenrock Paleontology Museum
P. O. Box 1124
Glenrock WY 82637
(307) 436-8042
f/(307) 436-5447
seandsmith@yahoo.com

Snels, Nick
't Zand 88
Arendonk
Antwerp 2370
Belgium
+32-14-679-938
nick.snels@pandora.be

Spaeth, Paula
3375 Louis Rd
Palo Alto CA 94305
(650) 799-1889
pspaeth@stanford.edu

Spencer, Marc
FPM Group
413 E Main St
East Moriches NY 11940-1360
(631) 806-4275
mspencer928@yahoo.com

Spielmann, Justin
Hinman Box 4571
Hanover NH 03755
(845) 482-4930
justin_a._spielmann@Dartmouth.edu

Stocker, Michelle
350 Thompson #324
Ann Arbor MI 48104-2254
(734) 347-8660
mstocker@umich.edu

Tapanila, Leif
Department of Geology & Geophysics
1460 E 135 S, Rm 719
University of Utah
Salt Lake City UT 84112-0111
(801) 581-4671
f/(801) 581-7065
ltapanila@mines.utah.edu

Taylor, Wendy
University of Chicago
1027 E 57th St
Chicago IL 60637
(773) 834-0534
f/(773) 834-0545
wtaylor@uchicago.edu

Taylor, Witt
948 Tattnal St
Macon GA 31201-1535
(478) 986-8428
sciencehottie@cox.net

Tissandier, Sylvie
8909 112th St Apt 3B
Edmonton AB T6G 2C5
Canada
(780) 434-0742
sylviet@ualberta.ca

Tsuji, Linda
2477 Folkway Dr
Mississauga ON L5L 2J7
Canada
(905) 820-6932
linda.tsuji@utoronto.ca

Tweet, Justin
9149 79th St S
Cottage Grove MN 55016-2214
(651) 458-3786
thescelosaurus@juno.com

Vasconcelos, Cecilio
Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research
University of the Witwatersrand
Private Bag 3 WITS
Johannesburg 2050
South Africa
+27-11-477-7882
f/+27-11-477-7882
phoenixphyre@magicmail.co.za

Voss, Manja
Dolzigerstraße 46
Berlin D-10247
Germany
+30-42016034
fossilie@web.de

Wahl, William
Wyoming Dinosaur Center
Big Horn Basin Foundation
110 Carter Ranch Rd
Thermopolis WY 82443-2457
(307) 864-2997
f/(307) 864-5762
wwahl2@aol.com

Wheatley, Patrick
1710 E Oltorf St #704
Austin TX 78741
patrickwheatley@mail.utexas.edu

Wilcots, David
5409 Laurens St
Philadelphia PA 19144-4503
(610) 430-7866 x111
f/(610) 430-7872
davwherbal@hotmail.com

Wildman, Kathy
337 E Main St
Grafton WV 26354
(304) 265-1474
kattwild@hotmail.com

Wilkening, Donald
1002 2nd St NW
Bowman ND 58623-4433
(701) 523-3625
f/(701) 523-3600
dkwilk@yahoo.com

Wilkening, Kathryn
1002 2nd St NW
Bowman ND 58623-4433
dkwilk@yahoo.com

Wilkins, Anne
9 Langdykes Crescent
Cove Bay Grampian
Aberdeen AB12 3HF
Scotland
United Kingdom
+44-1224-898-835
quartzanne@aol.com

Williams, Eric
275 Williams Lane
Cairo GA 39828-7084
(229) 378-8374
ericw80@hotmail.com

Williams, Scott
1006 S 2nd St
Oregon IL 61061
darthkaini@aol.com

Wood, Sonja
Blue Beach Fossil Museum
127 Blue Beach Rd
Hantsport NS B0P 1P0
Canada
(902) 684-9541
bbfossil@glinx.com

Woods, Arnold
3900 Valley Rd
Casper WY 82604
(307) 234-3231
arnold@touchtronics.net

Worley, Marie
2855 Rock Creek Cir #304
Louisville CO 80027
(720) 304-6114
marie.worley@colorado.edu

Zidar, Charles
4704 Plum Blossum Dr
Knightdale NC 27545
(919) 266-5427
mayaexplorer@mindspring.com

— NEWS FROM MEMBERS —

BULGARIA (Xiaoming Wang, international editor; xwang@nhm.org)

National Museum of Natural History

Current Work on Fossil Mammals

The main activities of a team including experts from the Museum and other institutions—(Bulgarian and foreign)—concentrated during 2001 on problems of the fauna, biochronology, and landscape evolution of the Late Miocene of Bulgaria. For some time in the past Nikolai Spassov put much effort into the organization of the work in the noted directions and this year these efforts began to give visible results. Tz. Tzankov (Institute of Geology of the Bulgarian Academy of Science), N. Spassov (NMNH), and K. Stoyanov (University of Blagoevgrad) carried out several field prospecting expeditions of the Neogene deposits of the Struma River (southwestern Bulgaria) that led to a significant revision of the Neogene formations of the region and extended the data on the biochronology of the known localities of vertebrate fauna. Three new and promising localities were found in the Struma valley. In one of them in the lowest levels of the fossiliferous region of Kalimantsi, D. Kovachev (Assenovgrad Paleontological Division of the NMNH) and N. Spassov organized paleontological excavations. D. Geraads (CNRS, France) and N. Spassov identified eight species of mammals in the first samples from the newly discovered locality of Ilindentsi. They continued the investigations (which started two years ago) on the

ungulates of the Late Miocene localities Kalimantsi and Hadjidimovo stored in the collections of the Assenovgrad Paleontological Division of the NMNH. During the year G. Koufos (University of Thessaloniki), N. Spassov, and D. Kovachev finished a large work on the *Mesopithecus* from the Bulgarian Miocene sites. D. Kovachev prepared a publication on a Turolian *Machairodus* skull, as well as a paper on a unique skeleton of a Turolian *Metailurus*. The comparison of this skeleton with the well-known postcranial remains from Pikermi described by Gaudry as "first non-named cat species" and referred recently following the supposition of De Beaumont to *Paramachairodus orientalis* brought N. Spassov to the conclusion that these bones, including humerus Pik-3244 and 3244, tibia Pik-3255 and 3252, and femur Pik-3038 (coll. NMNH, Paris), belongs in fact to *Metailurus major*. The comparison of the some material from two MN10/11 southwestern Bulgarian localities with Late Miocene *Chilotherium* "*sarmaticum"* material from northeastern Romania (coll. Inst. "E. Racovita", Bucharest) also led Nikolai to the conclusion of the presence of this rhinoceros in the Latest Vallesian of Bulgaria. This is an interesting fact from a zoogeographical point of view.

Georgi N. Markov (doctoral student in NMNH) continued his work on the Bulgarian proboscideans. Together with N. Spassov and V. Simeonovski (zoologist and artist) he published a paper on the cranial morphology and feeding behavior of deinotheres with a reconstruction of the head appearance of *Deinotherium*. In this reconstruction the authors argued against the traditional concepts of an elephantlike proboscis in deinotheres and proposed instead a broad muscular lip resembling a tapir trunk. In another paper the same authors discussed some differences between *D. giganteum* (reconstruction of the head based on the Eppelsheim skull) and *D. gigantissimum* (reconstruction of the head based on the Ezerovo skeleton, stored in the Palaeontology Museum of Sofia University). During the year G. N. Markov and N. Spassov worked on some very primitive *Mammuthus meridionalis* teeth from Bulgaria. G. N. Markov participated in the First International Congress, "The World of Elephants" (Rome, 16–20 October).

Doctoral student Latinka Ivanova is in the second year of preparation of her thesis based on a very rich collection of the Hadjidimovo (MN11/12 boundary) *Hipparion*.

Very interesting and yet unpublished macromammalian fossils of probably Ruscinian age came to the NMNH from the Regional Museum of Yambol (southern Bulgaria). They are now being described. Among them are the first European postcranial finds of *Agriotherium* (Ursidae) and a *Dolichopithecus* (Cercopithecidae) mandible fragment (det. N. Spassov).

Current Work on Fossil Birds

The main activities of Zlatozar Boev were as follows: He took part in the First International Congress, “The World of Elephants”, Rome, 16–20 October 2001, with a paper on avian faunas contemporary with mammoths from Bulgaria. At the Fourth Meeting of the Bird Working Group of the International Council for Archaeozoology, Cracow, 11–15 September 2001, he presented a paper on the Tetraonidae in the Neogene–Quaternary record of Bulgaria and the origin and evolution of the family. He worked hard collecting new avian fossil material from Bulgaria, including the Middle Villafranchian site of Varshets (northwestern Bulgaria) and Holocene sites (former Eagle Owl feeding places) from northeastern Bulgaria. Zlatozar identified new Miocene and Pliocene avian remains from Bulgaria at the Institute of Systematic and Evolution of Animals (Cracow, Poland). Z. Boev's recent data inventory of the collection of fossil and subfossil birds in NMNH–Sofia includes about 12,155 items belonging to 350 species.

Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

The paleontological work done by Dr. Vasil Popov during 2001 concerned the following main topics:

1) Elaboration of Late Quaternary mammalian remains from the rockshelter “Dieu,” Thanh Hoa province, North Vietnam, resulting from Bulgaria–Vietnam archaeological excavations during 1988–1991. The sequence consisted of two types of sediments. The first type

comprises the upper part of the sequence and contains sub-Recent vertebrate remains (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), representing food debris. The majority of determined mammal species still live in the area, however the presence of some allochtonous elements merits special attention, such as *Aeromys/Biswamoyopterus* and *Hydropotes.* The second type of deposits, lacking archaeological materials, contains a *Pongo–Tapirus–Rhinoceros* fauna. So far more than 50 mammalian species have been identified and described.

2) Description of a Late Pliocene shrew (Soricidae) assemblage (six species) from Varshets, North Bulgaria. The Varshets record of *Sorex runtonensis* extends the stratigraphical range of the species into the Late Pliocene. The skull fragments determined as *Mafia* aff*. csarnotensis* have four upper antemolars, in contrast to previous opinions five antemolars. The composition and structure of the assemblage is analyzed within the context of 22 Pliocene and Early Pleistocene shrew associations from Europe. The analysis definitely points towards a mosaic environment, under a relatively warm and dry climate.

3) Elaboration of the small-mammal material obtained from the Bulgarian–French archaeological excavations in Kozarnika Cave, northeastern Bulgaria. All layers excavated up to now (1–14) contain archaeological materials. The extremely rich small-mammal samples clearly show that the sediment sequence includes a succession covering the last one million years (second half of Biharian, layer 14-11; part of Steinheimian, layer 10; and Upper Pleistocene, layer 9-1) and serves as a firm base for elaboration of a detailed small-mammal biostratigraphy in this part of Europe. (Nikolai Spassov)

CANADA (Kevin Seymour, editor; kevins@rom.on.ca)

Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario

Several of the CMN paleobiology gang are out in the field, so this is an abbreviated report. Kathy Stewart is in the field in British Columbia, working on Holocene sites of the Pacific Northwest, and Steve Cumbaa is in the Arctic with Jaelyn Eberle, searching for Cretaceous and Tertiary vertebrates. Jaelyn left us last year to take up a position at University of Colorado, where we hear she is now well ensconced and enjoying her new challenges. Natalia Rybczynski will be joining CMN in September to fill the paleomammalogy position; we look forward to her arrival. Steve and Rick Day will be in the field in Saskatchewan and Manitoba later in the summer.

Xiao-chun Wu had a successful spring field season in China, working on K/T boundary sediments. He will be undertaking more fieldwork for the rest of the summer in the Drumheller area with the Royal Tyrrell Museum staff. For lab work, Xiao-chun is working on a marine diapsid from China with two Chinese colleagues and crocodilians from the Dinosaur Park Formation of Alberta.

Robert Holmes is scrambling through his “window of opportunity”—the *Styracosaurus* skeleton has been removed from exhibit, and is in the process of being refurbished and remounted, allowing Rob to study the postcranial material without the interference of iron mounting bars and exhibit walls. Rob is also working on several other ceratopsians, and continues his work with early tetrapods as well.

Alison Murray is hoping to finish with the fish material from the Eocene Mahenge, Tanzania, site, with one manuscript left to submit, and the rest due to be published this year. She is also working on Paleogene fishes from Egypt and Pakistan, and expects to be in the field in the fall.

The work on specimen preparation for the new fossil gallery continues, with Margaret Feuerstack and Kieran Shepherd busily removing the old supports (which were bolted through the bones) from the specimens, and Susan Swan and Clayton Kennedy welding new supports. The new

mounts will have the bones cradled in the supports, and Susan, our expert metal worker, has designed these supports with an artistic flare. In the new exhibit, supports will not only be an artistic addition to the specimens, but also allow easy removal of individual bones for study.

Kieran is working on a type catalogue for the fossil vertebrate collection that should be completed this year. Kieran also reports that CMN has established an agreement with the Nunavut government to curate their fossil collections. CMN will act as a repository for fossils collected in the territory until such time as a curation facility is available in Nunavut. Territorial legislation now protects the fossil resources of Nunavut and all fossils collected are the property of the territory. (Alison Murray).

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Brian Hall and members of his lab continue to dwell on “the reasons why palaeontology needs developmental biology and vice versa,” by contributing a column to the Palaeontological Association Newsletter. The upcoming article will consider the multifaceted manner in which one can think about bones and skeletons.

Matt Vickaryous has been working jointly on the Ankylosauria chapter for the upcoming second edition of the Dinosauria, and another manuscript on sesamoid development. Matt continues his PhD work on crocodilian development and dermal bone. What free time Matt had this spring was occupied by finally tying the knot with Jalene (Lumb), married on 31 May. Congratulations!

Tim Fedak continues his PhD work on the Nova Scotian prosauropods. A month of fieldwork on the scenic shores of the Bay of Fundy resulted in a preliminary stratigraphic column of the dinosaur bone bed and a good base coat for his summer tan. Lots of shoveling was enjoyed by all who visited him in the field. The rest of the summer is filled with writing, including an upcoming redescription of the *Anchisaurus* braincase for October's SVP meeting.

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal has recently joined the Hall lab from Cape Town, South Africa. She is slowly adjusting to the prevailing "cold" weather and making excellent progress on starting her postdoctoral research projects. (Tim Fedak)

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario

Vertebrate paleontological research at the ROM is now almost dead. As reported last issue, we have had both Mesozoic vertebrate curators leave last fall. Now we have found out that one position has disappeared and the other will not be replaced until some time after the new galleries have been completed, in December 2005. Therefore we will have expanded fossil galleries and almost no staff! Presently we have two technicians, Ian Morrison and Catherine Skrabec, who will be working full time in the near future on the refurbishment of the gallery specimens, and Kevin Seymour as collections manager, with part-time assistance from Brian Iwama. Research Casting International (Peter May and his excellent crew) have won the contract to remount all our gallery dinosaurs and mammals. Kevin is curator for the Cenozoic gallery, and lacking any Mesozoic vertebrate curator, Janet Waddington (collection manager for fossil invertebrates) has been pulled in as curator for the Mesozoic gallery. Rob Holmes (CMN) is academic advisor for the Mesozoic gallery. In truth, Kevin and Janet are working together on both these post-Paleozoic galleries. Kevin is still managing to squeeze in some research, recently completing a tribute to Loris Russell for the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*. He has plans this summer to check out a few interglacial sites in northern Ontario. Thomas Carr, Chris McGowan’s last graduate student, hopes to defend his dissertation this fall. (Kevin Seymour).

University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

Mike Caldwell has just finished his third year at the U of A and is busy with research, teaching, graduate student supervision, and administration—tenure review is set for this fall! The U of A

remains unique in maintaining a cross-departmental undergraduate degree program in paleontology of which Mike is the coordinator. Interest in paleontology has never been higher and thus the program has a record number of students enrolled. Mike is currently supervising three MSc candidates and one PhD candidate. Their research projects are focused on the molecular developmental biology of axial elongation and limblessness in squamates (PhD, Taylor), a description of a new tylosaurine mosasaur and the systematics of tylosaurines (Bullard), the histology of dental attachment tissues in fossil and extant squamates (Budney), and the phylogeny and taxonomy of aigialosaurs with a description of the missing cranial counterpart of the type of *Opetiosaurus* (Dutchak).

Mike's first graduate student, Stephanie Pierce, graduated with her M.Sc. in January and is considering PhD studies in Bristol and Montréal; one chapter of her thesis is already in press in *JVP* (A redescription of the "dolichosaur," *Pontosaurus lesinensis*). Over the past fall and winter, a number of undergraduate research projects resulted in some notable publications (e.g., Erin Maxwell's 2002 discovery of Cretaceous-aged ichthyosaur embryos and the publication of the paper in *Transactions of the Royal Society, Biology Letters*).

Mike's primary research focus continues to be the phylogeny and evolution of squamates, with a secondary focus on the evolution of aquatic adaptations in marine reptiles. Recent fieldwork projects in Argentina with colleagues Jorge Calvo and Susana Heredia have produced new specimens of the Cretaceous snake *Dinilysia* as well as some superbly preserved notosuchian crocodiles. Mike co-authored a recent paper with Adriana Albino describing a collection of *Dinilysia* fossils made by Jose Bonaparte a number of years ago. A monographic description and comparison of the Bonaparte collection is nearing completion. He will be continuing research and fieldwork in the Nequén region with Calvo and Heredia.

Mike is also completing a manuscript, in collaboration with Cristiano Dal Sasso, which describes some spectacular soft-tissue features in a 95 million-year-old marine lizard. This one is a beauty and is certainly one of the best-preserved specimens of its kind. And, as always, Cristiano, Stefania, and Milano were marvelous hosts for the study of great wine, food, and fossils.

During June of 2002, and again in June of this year, Mike and his field team were in southern Saskatchewan with Tim Tokaryk and his T-rex Discovery Center team (Royal Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History) where they collected a virtually complete and beautifully articulated *Mosasaurus conodon* measuring about 28 feet from the tip of its perfect tail to the tip of its concretion bound premaxilla! The 2003 excavation of the skeleton took a total of eight days from start to finish as the Bearpaw Shale was heavily weathered at the quarry site. The collaborative field team also collected seven partial skeletons of *Plioplatecarpus* and possibly *Hainosaurus*.

Mike, Rob Holmes, Gorden Bell, and Joan Wiffen have completed their description of the new skull of *Taniwhasaurus oweni* they collected in New Zealand in 1999. The paper is now in review in *JVP* and has added to the pace of mosasaur studies in the lab. During the summer of 2002 Mike visited collections in London, Paris, and Belgium and found more New Zealand mosasaurs in Dollo's collections—more to come on that story. A trip to Maastricht this summer (2003) should add a few more specimens to the list as will some new specimens arriving from Morocco—the latter are truly exciting. Mike and Gorden Bell will be collaborating on the writing of the "Sauria Maritima"—the next volume in the Handbuch der Palaeoherpetologie series.

In recent months the UALVp has undergone a number of major changes. First and foremost, our longtime technician, L. Allan Lindoe, retired in the fall of 2002 after nearly 30 years of service to the science of paleontology and to the University of Alberta. He has not been sorely missed as he remains on contract in order to assist us with the preparation of fossils. We are happy to still have the chance to make use of his outstanding fossil preparations skills, his skills in the field, as well as his endless supply of stories from years gone by. As if the retirement of our one and only technician was not sufficient to shake up the facility, the UALVP and Mike's personal lab space have undergone a radical facelift. Mike received a substantial infrastructure grant from the

Canadian Foundation for Innovation that has allowed him to construct a Web data base/digital microscopy and imaging facility that is to be fully integrated with CT-scan, Micro CT-scan, and 3-D photoscan technologies. The fossil prep lab and collections system (compactors, etc.) are also being modernized and renovated and should provide state-of-the-art facilities by the late fall. Allan Lindoe likes his new toys. (Mike Caldwell)

FRANCE

Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, Laboratoire de Paléontologie, UMR 8569 du CNRS

Philippe Janvier has been collaborating with Shu Degan (Xi'an) and Simon Conway Morris (Cambridge) on the first description of the head and axial skeleton of the Early Cambrian fish *Haikouichthys* (*Nature*, 421:526–529). In October 2002, he spent some time at the Miguasha Museum of Natural History, looking for soft-tissue preservation in the antiarch *Bothriolepis*, beginning a detailed description of the extensively calcified endoskleton of the anaspidlike agnathan *Euphanerops*, and studying the histology of the calcified endoskeleton in the pectoral fins of the osteostracan *Escuminaspis*, in collaboration with Marius Arsenault and Sylvain Desbiens (Miguasha). In autumn 2003, he is planning fieldwork in Bolivia, on the tracks of the peculiar Devonian chondrichthyan *Pucapampella*. In collaboration with Gael Clement, he is describing a new osteolepidid sarcopterygian from the Devonian of Turkey. Gael is also continuing his fieldwork in the Famennian of eastern Belgium (in hope of finding a tetrapod!), and completing his description of the large tristichopterids for this area. Leaving the realm of fish for a while, Philippe has also been collaborating with his old friend Nour-Eddine Jalil (Marrakech) on the description of a new pareiasaur from the Late Permian of Argana.

Vincent Pernegre is studying the Heterostracan Pteraspidiformes fauna of the Wood Bay Formation (Lower Devonian, Spitsbergen), for his PhD under the supervision of D. Goujet. Most of the material was collected by the famous MNHN–CNRS expedition in 1969, but also following two recent French missions (2002–2003). The aim of our paleontological and biostratigraphical study is to increase our circumarctic stratigraphical data in order to correlate the Spitsbergen area with North America (Canada) and Siberia (Severnaya Zemlya). The Pteraspidiformes represent an interesting group for this study due to their abundance in the Old Red Sandstones deposits, which are dominant in the Lower Devonian.

Cécile Poplin coordinates the elaboration of the Handbook of Paleoichthyology devoted to nonteleostean actinopterygians. For this, he is working actively on basal Actinopteri, a rather big chapter. The other authors are L. Grande, F. Poyato, and A. Tintori. Besides this, she will soon finish, along with D. Dutheil, the analysis of the phylogenetic relationships of Aeduellidae.

Gaël Clement defended his PhD thesis on the anatomy and relationships of the Early Devonian Porolepiformes and Powichthyidae, two groups of sarcopterygians closely related to lungfishes. Gaël also began to tackle another group of Devonian sarcopterygians, the Tristichopteridae, which is more closely involved in the question of the origin of tetrapods, and is a rather derived tetrapodomorph. He discovered in the Late Famennian (Late Devonian) of Belgium a new and very informative material of tetrapodomorphs and associated placoderms, already partly described and still under description. A new dipnoan found during the French field expedition 2002 in the Pragian (Lower Devonian) of Spitsbergen is also under study. Gaël is also working in collaboration with Dr Ted Daeschler from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia on a new and complete Rhizodontida from the Late Devonian of the Catskills, Pennsylvania.

Nathalie Bardet is currently fully involved in the study of the reptile faunas from the Phosphates of Morocco. Her work is concentrated on the study of the marine reptiles from the Late Maastrichtian deposits, especially mosasaurids (*Geobios*, in press, about *Mosasaurus beaugei*; several papers submitted and in preparation). Nathalie is also supervising the PhD thesis of S. Jouve on the crocodilian faunas from the Paleogene of the same outcrops. With X. Pereda Suberbiola (Bilbao)

and S. Jouve, she contributed to the study of the first pterosaur found in these phosphates (*Geological Society Special Publications*, 217, in press). Nathalie is also carrying on her work on the Late Cretaceous marine reptiles from the Mediterranean Tethys margins with the recent publication of the first mosasaur found in Turkey (Bardet and Tunoglu, 2002, *JVP* 22[3]) and new marine reptile remains found in phosphatic deposits of Jordan (Bardet and Pereda Suberbiola, 2002, *Geodiversitas* 24[4]) and Syria (Al Maleh and Bardet, 2003, *Comptes Rendus Géosciences* 335).

Jean-Claude Rage is trying to complete several studies in collaboration with various colleagues. These include snakes from the Maastrichtian of India (with G. V. R. Prasad), a mid-Eocene herpetofauna from France (with M. Augé), and the history of booids during the Oligocene and Miocene in Europe (with Z. Szyndlar). Among papers recently submitted are the description of a new “mosasauroid” from the Cenomanian of France (with D. Néraudeau), the study of squamates from the Paleocene of Morocco that make up one of the rare herpetofaunas from the Paleogene of Africa (with M. Augé), the description of the earliest (paleocene) bufonid frog from the Old World, a fauna of aquatic snakes from the Eocene of India that includes an astonishing *Pterosphenus* species (with S. Bajpai), and the history of frogs during the Tertiary in Europe (with Z. Rocek). The third, i.e., last, part of the study of the Paleocene snakes from Itaboraí, Brazil, (nonboid booids) progresses slowly, but it approaches completion; the second part (Boidae) was published last year in *Palaeovertebrata*.

Marc Augé is currently turning his thesis on Paleogene lizards from western Europe into a publication.

Estelle Bourdon has been working since the fall of 2001 on her PhD dissertation, with the support of E. Gheerbrant and C. Mourer-Chauviré, on the new marine avifauna discovered in the Ypresian phosphatic beds of the Ouled Abdoun Basin, Morocco. In spring 2002 and 2003, she made field researches in the sites and collected new material. The collection of bird fossil material from Ouled Abdoun, which includes isolated long bones and skulls, is now fairly rich. Preliminary reports of this avifauna will be presented in a paper in press in the *Bull. Soc. Geol Fr.* (2003, 174[3]) and at the 2003-SVPCA. Several manuscripts describing new taxa are in preparation.

Christian de Muizon has been heading the new Department of Earth History of the Museum since August 2002. The 26 laboratories of the Museum have disappeared to give birth to seven research departments. Our department includes the former laboratories of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology. Of course, for a few years, he will be strongly involved in administrative tasks, but he definitely intends to carry on his research on the Peruvian Neogene aquatic sloths (with G. McDonald and C. Argot) and on the Tiupampa (early Paleocene of Bolivia) mammals (with R. L. Cifelli). This research will essentially focus on the pantodont skeleton discovered in 1999 and on the *Andinodelphys* skulls.

Sandrine Ladevèze is studying for her PhD the auditory region of metatherians from the Early Tertiary of South America, and its implications for the origin and phylogeny of Gondwanan metatherians. The studied material consists mostly in diverse, isolated metatherian petrosals discovered in two renowned South American sites: Tiupampa (Early Paleocene of Bolivia) and Itaboraí (Late Paleocene of Brazil).

Emmanuel Gheerbrant is continuing his research on late Paleocene–early Eocene mammals from the Ouled Abdoun phosphates basin, Morocco. He is still working, in collaboration with J. Sudre and P.Tassy, on the monographic study of new material of *Phosphatherium* which includes beautiful skulls and jaws. Other taxa in study are primitive hyraxes and *Ocepeia,* illustrated by new material. An overview of the *Phosphatherium* localities—geological, stratigraphical, and taphonomical context, and selachian and mammalian faunal lists—will be published this year in the *Bull. Soc. Geol. Fr*. The paper discusses the dating of the mammal level (early Ypresian). In collaboration with V. Codrea, he is also studying the Paleocene/Ypresian mammalian localities from Transylvania, Romania. A new excavation in the summer 2002, supported by the National

Geographic Society and led by V. Codrea, yielded a significant new collection of micromammals, including "insectivores" and "condylarths" (especially hyopsodontids). An overview of the locality will be presented at Cluj in September 2003. A new work dealing with Africa, in collaboration with H. Thomas, concerns the Oligocene Libyan locality of Jebel Hasawnah where a new exceptional material of articulated skeletons of hyracoidean mammals has been discovered. It is the subject of a preliminary paper which should appear this year in the *Comptes Rendus Palevol*.

Marc Godinot enjoys teaching but complains about administrative responsibilities. He achieved a paper on primate origins following the Chicago 2001 conference. In it, he is facing the fact that, in the two broad reviews of the data, different anatomical systems led to different phylogenetic hypotheses. To escape this contradiction, he is trying to emphasize historical information, which leads him to return to tupaiids as the preferred sister group of primates. Marc finally started, again, to publish on the microchoerids.

Adeline Aumont is finishing her doctoral dissertation on European paromomyids. The new Paris Basin material shows marked morphological variations, difficult to handle. A systematic revision was done, which is partially based on a phylogenetic analysis of the whole family.

Sevket Sen and his team has been working since 1999 in Neogene deposits of the Çankiri Basin in central Anatolia, Turkey. The team includes students of tectonics, stratigraphy, sedimentology, taphonomy, systematics, and biostratigraphy, as well as isotopes for revealing vegetation cover, diet, and climate. The large excavation in a rich Turolian locality at Akkasdagi allowed the recovery of more than 6,000 specimens of small and large mammals. Several papers on this locality and its fauna were submitted to *Geodiversitas*, a journal published by the Natural History Museum of Paris, to be published in a special volume. Elsewhere in this basin, the record of mammalian faunas is almost continuous from Early Miocene up to Late Pliocene, based on more than 30 mammal localities already explored. Integrated studies will also pursue a collaboration between the Paris Museum, Geological Survey of Turkey, and Ankara University this summer.

Brigitte Senut and Martin Pickford report that the three long-term expeditions which they have been leading in Uganda, Kenya, and Namibia continue to bear paleofruit. The Uganda Palaeontology Expedition published two monographs on the geology and paleobiology of the Albertine Rift. A third monograph is in preparation on the volcanic-sedimentary deposits and faunas of eastern Uganda. The Namibia Palaeontology Expedition has now published two monographs on the Geology and paleontology of the Orange River Valley, and its members are hard at work on a third volume on the paleobiology of the Sperrgebiet (Forbidden Territory) where diamonds are more common than fossils. Publications on the geology and paleontology of the Tugen Hills, Kenya, are in preparation. In the meantime, Martin, Brigitte, and colleagues are busy describing and interpreting new remains of the 6 Ma hominid, *Orrorin tugenensis*, and of several ape teeth from the same sites. This is the first time that hominid and ape fossils have been found side by side. Fieldwork in the Early Miocene deposits at Moroto, eastern Uganda, has resulted in the collection of several intriguing cercopithecoid and small-bodied hominoid fossils, as well as *Ugandapithecus* and *Afropithecus* remains. New collections in the Otavi Mountains of Namibia contain additional material of Middle Miocene *Otavipithecus namibiensis* and Pliocene papionines. But the most satisfying aspect of these expeditions has been the mounting of paleontological displays, which now grace the Uganda Museum, Kampala, the Kipsaraman Museum, Kenya, and the Geological Survey Museum, Namibia. Training of students and technicians both within their countries and in France has progressed well. (Emmanuel Gheerbrant)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region (Robert L. Anemone, editor; anemone@wmich.edu)

No news items were submitted.

Southeast Region (Richard C. Hulbert, Jr., editor; rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu)

University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History

After almost 40 years of service to the Museum and the University of Florida, Dave Webb retired at the end of June 2003. While he will still be spending about half the year in Gainesville (the other half at his ranch in Montana), Dave will be sorely missed for both his intellect and his friendship. To honor him, the Museum held a well-attended symposium on 10 May with talks by 11 speakers, including Jason Lillegraven, Malcolm McKenna, Dick Tedford, and Dan Fisher, and a banquet with after-dinner speaker Clayton Ray. A festschrift of contributed papers by Dave's former and present students and colleagues is also in the works, and Dave learned of its existence at the banquet.

Dave, Richard Hulbert, and Gary Morgan (New Mexico MNH) completed a review of the land mammals of the Palmetto Fauna, early Pliocene of south-central Florida, which will be published in the Dave Whistler festschrift by the LACM. It promises to be the first of several forthcoming papers by various combinations of this trio on mammals from the Bone Valley phosphate mines, one of Dave's favorite research topics.

The Museum's new Fossil Hall in its exhibit facility now has a firm opening date in May 2004. Newly completed artwork and skeletal mounts are arriving on an almost weekly basis. Although much remains to be done, Bruce MacFadden and Kurt Auffenberg (son of well-known paleoherpetologist Walter Auffenberg), who are now in charge of completing the project, can finally see the finish line. So now the race is on—which will be first, publication of the Webb festschrift or opening of the Fossil Hall?

Julie Meachen successfully defended and submitted her thesis to graduate school, and will be moving on to work on a dissertation at UCLA. Julie's thesis concerned the taxonomy and paleobiology of a new, small species of *Hemiauchenia* from the late Pliocene. Jeremy Green continues to work on various projects dealing with *Mammut americanum* in Florida, including using microwear to examine paleodiet (in collaboration with Gina Semprebon and Nikos Solounias) and a description of a large sample of deciduous premolars (in collaboration with Richard Hulbert). (Richard Hulbert)

University of Louisiana at Monroe, Department of Geosciences

Research in vertebrate paleontology has been extensive lately in the department especially in the area of graduate studies. Several graduates theses (Masters' level) in vertebrate paleontology have been completed in 2002–2003. Tiffany M. Green finished her study comparing paleoecological determination based on vertebrate and invertebrate faunas from the Moodys Branch Formation (upper Eocene) of Louisiana and Mississippi. She presented her findings at the SVP annual meeting in Norman. Tiffany is now teaching geology at the Delta Community College in Monroe.

Another graduate student, Lorin R. King, described and analyzed 400 marine coprolites from the upper Eocene Yazoo Clay in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana. The coprolites were classified as to shark (spiral and scroll), fish, or indeterminate. The spiral and scroll coprolites were compared to statistical studies based on shark teeth from the localities, and the most likely progenitors were determined. Lorin also presented his research at the SVP meeting in Norman. He is now in the doctoral program in paleontology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and is doing paleontological work this summer at the Badlands National Park.

This spring, Casey L. Strickland completed his study of teleost otoliths from three Archaic archaeological sites in northern Louisiana dating 8,000–5,600 YBP. The otoliths supplied data on the minimum number of individuals, size of individual fishes (length, weight, and edible meat), paleoenvironmental setting (including paleotemperatures), seasonality of occupation, and

procurement techniques. The paleotemperature determinations (micromilling technique for oxygen and carbon isotopes) were done in collaboration with Dr. William Patterson of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, and represented some of the first paleotemperatures determined for these important Archaic sites in Louisiana.

Brett Woodward is scheduled to defend his thesis on the taxonomy, paleoecology, and evolution of the otolith-based marine fishes of the Upper Cretaceous Kemp Clay in Hunt County, Texas, this summer. Brett has studied over 1,200 fish otoliths from the Kemp Clay, which represents one of the most extensive Cretaceous otolith-based faunas in North America. Brett is currently conducting paleontological studies at Fossil Butte National Monument in Wyoming.

Graduate student Lauri Worley is making significant progress in her study of the marine vertebrates from three recently discovered sites in the Oligocene Rosefield Formation in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Preliminary examinations of the material have revealed at least 20 taxa of cartilaginous and bony fishes. Otolith-based fishes comprise almost 75% of the fauna while the remainder is skeletal-based remains.

In March, Gary Stringer (Professor of Geology in the department) presented a paper entitled "Late Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) otolith-based fishes from the Coon Creek Site in southwest Tennessee" at the Coon Creek Symposium at the Geological Society of America's southeastern/south-central sections annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. The papers presented at the symposium are to be published by the Tennessee Geological Survey. Dr. Dirk Nolf (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium) and Gary recently published their study of the late Eocene (Priabonian) fish otoliths from the Yazoo Clay at Copenhagen, Louisiana, with the Louisiana Geological Survey. They described 43 taxa of otolith-based fishes from the site of which eight were new. This makes the Copenhagen site one of the most prolific Paleogene otolith-based fish faunas in the Gulf Coast. A new batoid genus was also discovered at the same site by Dr. Henri Cappetta (Laboratorie de Paleontologie, Université de Montpellier, France) and Gary. The description of the new genus was published in the most recent volume of *Tertiary Research*. (Gary Stringer)

Midwest Region (Josh Smith, editor; smithjb@levee.wustl.edu)
No news items were submitted.

Southwest Region (Dennis R. Ruez, Jr., editor; ruez@mail.utexas.edu)
Dallas Museum of Natural History
The Museum recently welcomed Derek Main to the fossil preparation lab. Derek is busy preparing several of the *Alamosaurus* vertebrae collected two years ago in Big Bend National Park. In addition, Derek supervises a growing number of volunteers, all anxious to see the *Alamosaurus* project to completion.

As we empty the lab of *Alamosaurus* bones, we are creating space for the shipment of *Pachyrhinosaurus* bones collected last summer in the Arctic with the University of Alaska Museum and Southern Methodist University. These bones are from the richest horned-dinosaur bonebed in the Arctic and include partial skulls of at least three individuals. Several additional skulls were left at the site last year because of the unexpected embarrassment of riches. Based on the degree of suturing in the skulls, these individuals all seem to be subadults.

The Museum has also received a substantial donation of Permian vertebrate fossils from the Archer City area of Texas. Two amateur collectors from the Dallas–Fort Worth area, Jim Merrett and David Williams, had been collecting in the vicinity of some of Romer's old localities for

approximately ten years. The Dallas Museum of Natural History thanks them for their generous donation.

Our skeletal cast of *Malawisaurus* is on loan until 2004 to the Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas. (Tony Fiorillo)

Mesa Southwest Museum
The staff of the Museum is pleased to be the hosts of the 2005 SVP meeting. We are all looking forward to seeing you here. Doug Wolfe continues both fieldwork and research on the Zuni Basin Paleontological Project. Brian Curtice continues to amuse us, and threatens to publish his volumes of observations on sauropods—someday. Heidemarie Johnson continues her work on the Devonian fishes from near Payson, Arizona. Bob McCord is dealing with a major turtle exhibit opening in September, and the fact that the city now uses him to write environmental assessments. When he can steal away he continues work on the herps from 111 Ranch and southeast Arizona Cretaceous. (Robert McCord)

Northern Arizona University, Quaternary Sciences Program and Department of Geology
Larry Agenbroad has recently done field work in South Dakota, Arizona, and Utah. Excavations at the Hot Springs Mammoth Site are ongoing at the time of this submission and are expected to last for a month. To date there are the remains of 52 mammoths, plus associated fauna including the giant short-faced bear. A partial cranium marking Arizona's first record of the Pleistocene musk ox, *Bootherium bombifrons*, was recovered from the gravels of a point bar on Oak Creek, about 35 miles southwest of Flagstaff. In Ashley National Forest (northeastern Utah), excavation and recovery of a robust wolverine, *Plesiogulo*, is continuing. (Larry Agenbroad)

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Geological Sciences and Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory
We are pleased to announce that two of our graduate students recently finished their MS degrees in the VP program at UT. David Dufeau completed his thesis on the systematics and cranial osteology of *Shuvuuia deserti* this past spring, and Holly Nance finished her thesis on the cranial osteology of *Angolosaurus skoogi* over the summer. Justin Hall and Kate Oheim, two of our former undergraduate students with interests in paleontology, will pursue PhDs at Washington University in Saint Louis beginning this fall. Justin will be working with Josh Smith and Kate plans to work with Jen Smith. We wish all of them the best of luck. We also welcome back Lyn Murray who spent the last three years as the collections manager at the Yale Peabody Museum. Although he will surely be missed there, we are glad to have him back.

Building improvements to VPL continue, including a new HVAC system for Tim Rowe's office and the type and map room, as well as construction of new restrooms. Fortunately the renovations did not prevent access to the collections, and we had several researchers and educators visiting the collections over the past few months. VPL staff have been busily selecting and transporting specimens to go on permanent exhibit in the new Hall of Geology at the Texas Memorial Museum. Work continues with signage and educational materials for this exhibit, which is scheduled to open in January 2004. Pamela Owen kept busy with the usual and not-so-usual collections managerial duties and taught a new upper division course in mammalogy at UT. The course was a great success and included students from anthropology, biological sciences, and geological sciences. Pamela also continues her research on various carnivores, presenting the results of some of her investigations of hog badger cranial anatomy at the meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, and working on a manuscript with colleagues Vedat Onar and Oktay Belli from Istanbul University, describing fox remains from an archaeological site in eastern Anatolia.

Ernie Lundelius, with Bill Turnbull, is working on the placental mammals from Madura Cave in Australia. This will finish the study of the mammalian fauna from that site. He is also working with Russ Graham on the second version of FAUNMAP which will carry the coverage back to the Blancan and extend the coverage of Canada and Alaska. The late Pleistocene horses from the South Plains and Edwards Plateau are also under investigation. There now seems to be a sufficiently large sample from this region to make some progress in sorting out the taxa during the last few thousand years before they became extinct.

Chris Bell and Chris Jass spent two weeks in the field this summer in Nevada with Michael Osborne (from UT), and Jim Mead and Sandy Swift (Northern Arizona University). The team's excavations in Cathedral Cave produced a fantastically rich Pleistocene vertebrate fauna, which will form the material basis for Chris Jass's dissertation research. Jass was funded this summer by a scholarship from the Department of Geological Sciences.

Eric Ekdale is interested in the phylogenetic relationships of eutherian mammals, especially the origin and evolution of early placentals as well as the evolution of the eutherian middle and inner ear. Over the past summer, he used CT data to reconstruct the inner ear cavities of “zhelestid” mammals in order to add to our knowledge of these unique and fascinating placentals.

Jonathan Franzosa was extremely busy in the last year. Besides getting married, he is also a co-author on one paper in review, co-author on one paper in preparation, and lead author on another paper in preparation. In addition to all this, he is also finishing his dissertation data collection, and hopes to finish his PhD in the upcoming spring semester. Ted Macrini is collecting data for his dissertation and working on various manuscripts from collaborative side projects. He was awarded an NSF dissertation improvement grant this spring.

Jeri C. Rodgers is slowly working towards a dissertation proposal on the quantitative morphology of the vestibular system. As a side project, she is working with Christian George and Chris Bell on the definitive collection of the os cordis and an understanding of the bone. Besides the os cordis project, Christian plans to study a Holocene cave fauna of the Edwards Plateau, Texas, for his dissertation.

Dennis Ruez traveled to Idaho in the spring, visiting Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and the Idaho Museum of Natural History. He wrapped up data collection for his dissertation on the paleoecology of the Hagerman faunas. This summer he taught geology field camp and worked at the Nonvertebrate Paleontology Laboratory (NPL). Dennis currently has papers on Pliocene cotton rats and Pleistocene rabbits in review, and expects to submit several other manuscripts on small mammals soon.

Nina Triche catalogued thousands of rudists at the NPL over the summer while working on her MS thesis. She hopes to finish her MS soon and then continue at UT Austin to pursue a PhD. Her thesis explores the osteology of *Caiman* and its implications for systematic study of crocodiles using both ontogenetic and pneumatic characters. She has yet to decide whether or not to continue studying crocodiles for her doctoral dissertation.

Ron Tykoski has kept busy on several fronts. He spent much of the spring months in the UT Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory's collections assisting with rounding up specimens for the Texas Memorial Museum's soon-to-reopen Geology Hall exhibits. In April he also packed up and delivered several of the TMM's specimens (including mounted *Dimetrodon*, *Eyrops*, and *Herrerasaurus* skeletons) to the Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas, as part of a temporary paleontology exhibit. In May Ron was selected as a recipient of the Welles Fund at the UCMP. As a result, in June he spent a week in Berkeley closely examining specimens of *Dilophosaurus*, *Segisaurus*, and other coelophysoid material in the UCMP's collection. The data collected on the visit should prove to be the "icing on the cake" of his dissertation work, which he hopes to finish in short order.

Jonathan Wagner is continuing his studies of hadrosaur morphology and phylogeny, and the hadrosaurs of Big Bend National Park. He is currently preparing his dissertation proposal on the implications of nonphylogenetic (especially ontogenetic) variation and alpha taxonomy for paleontology and systematics, with emphasis on latest Cretaceous hadrosaurs. Patrick Wheatley, who is pursuing an MS degree, worked on a methodology for measuring isotopic ratios of calcium in eggs of various reptiles over the last six months. Patrick and Dennis plan to submit a paper on Pliocene *Odocoileus* soon. (Ted Macrini and Dennis Ruez, Jr.)

Rocky Mountain Region (Brent Breithaupt, editor; uwgeoms@uwyo.edu**)**

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Activity continues regarding VP here at Brigham Young University. Brooks Britt has survived his first school year here, taking over the slot vacated by Wade Miller upon his retirement. Brooks is continuing, and expanding, research he did while an undergraduate at this University. Currently he, Ken Stadtman, students, and others are doing a major taphonomic study of the Dalton Wells locality near Moab, Utah. The site here has yielded a variety of interesting vertebrates, mostly dinosaurs, from the early Cretaceous Cedar Mountain Formation. Fossils collected here over the years, as well as those from the Dry Mesa Quarry in the Morrison Formation of Colorado, are being prepared at a good rate in the BYU Earth Science Museum.

Concerning the Cedar Mountain Formation, graduate student Allen Shaw has just finished his thesis on the taphonomy, sedimentation, and stratigraphy of a monospecific ankylosaur bonebed just east of the Dalton Wells Quarry. He will be defending this thesis in June. Graduate student Andrew Stanton is beginning fieldwork on the Calico Gulch Quarry in the Morrison Formation of Colorado. He, too, is primarily studying the taphonomy and sedimentology. Initially this site was collected in 1976 by Jim Jensen. It has produced a partially articulated *Diplodocus* skeleton as well as bones of other dinosaurs, a crocodile, turtle, and pterosaur.

Wade Miller continues fieldwork in Mexico. With Oscar Carranza he has completed a paper on late Tertiary mammals from central Mexico and their relationship to South American immigrants. The research done here indicates that South American immigrants came into Mexico via the Panamanian Land Bridge at least a million years earlier than previously thought. Wade has also been working with personnel from the Museo del Desierto of Saltillo, Coahuila (Rosario Gomez, Rene Delgado, Jose Vallejo and Jose Lopez), on Pleistocene vertebrates from the state of Coahuila. A paper providing the first comprehensive report on this topic has recently been submitted for publication. (Wade E. Miller)

Dinosaur Depot Museum/Garden Park Paleontology Society

Most of Colorado experienced a tourist slowdown in the past year, thanks to fires, drought, and more people staying home. Despite that, Dinosaur Depot Museum fared well through last fall and winter. With a new Discovery Room being developed, and the totally renovated exhibit hall from last year; the response from visitors has been very positive indeed. We are still offering tours of the Garden Park Fossil Area as well as the Skyline Drive Dinosaur Tracksite with its multiple sets of *Tetrasaurapodus borealis*. This year we added an interpretive site for the tracks which makes the site a valuable addition to local interpretation of paleontology. We continue to work with the Bureau of Land Management to help manage the resources in the Garden Park Fossil Area by conducting tours as well as monitoring new fossil outcrops. Additionally, Curator Donna Engard will be developing a new computer tool to update the mapping and management of fossil resources for the Bureau of Land Management with the help of funding from that government entity. Volunteers in the laboratory are putting the finishing touches on the blocks of Marsh material from the Smithsonian as well as a “sauropodopile” of bones on loan from the National Park Service which were excavated from Curecanti National Recreation area in western Colorado a few years ago. The jacket contains 2½ vertebrae from an *Apatosaurus* identified by Tony Fiorillo who helped excavate specimen. Along with more anthill material from University of

Colorado to sort and specimens on loan from other institutions, folks have plenty to keep busy. If you have not been to the Museum in the last 18 months, you will be surprised and pleased with the changes. For information please call 1-800-987-6379 or visit http://www.dinosaurdepot.com/. (Pat Monaco)

Sheridan College, Department of Geology, Sheridan, Wyoming

The spring semester here at Sheridan College in northeastern Wyoming has seen students and faculty working at a number of Wyoming and Montana Cloverly and Morrison dinosaur sites. The Sheridan College Quarry was opened midspring this year with two field college courses offered. A new quarry on northeastern Wyoming ranch lands has developed into a most complex Late Jurassic Morrison Formation site. Bones from the small *Ornitholestes* have been located along with sauropod material. The local Sundance Formation has provided an outstanding area for our first-level field paleontology students to carry out field-collecting projects in a nearby paleomarine environment. Work continues on upgrading our prep lab with additional storage provided by the college. Brian Flynn continues his field research on dinosaur tracks across the Cloverly and Morrison formations of northern Wyoming. Mike Flynn presented his research on early fossil collecting within the Powder River Basin at Houston's Museum of Natural History last November. We welcome Dr. Gary Mundyas, a new addition to our paleontology faculty. (Michael J. Flynn)

University of Wyoming

Mike Cassiliano (Collections Manager, Scientific Collections at the University of Wyoming) continues his research, as well as writing chapters on the Artiodactyla, Eparctocyona, and Ungulata for the Lillegraven/Clemens textbook on fossil mammals. In addition, Mike's various teaching duties continue at the University.

Kelli Trujillo has handed Jay Lillegraven her dissertation on the age of the upper Morrison Formation in southeastern Wyoming. She expects to be done by the fall semester, where she will also take on some teaching duties here in the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

At the University of Wyoming Geological Museum, Brent Breithaupt and students Thomas Adams and Jerry Shinn completed a sixth field season studying the Middle Jurassic dinosaur tracks of northern Wyoming. Thousands of theropod tracks continue to be found in the eastern Bighorn Basin. As continued documentation occurs on these footprints, an exciting story is being written about the life and times of Bathonian dinosaurs on the ancient tidal flats of Wyoming. In addition, Brent and Neffra Matthews (National Science and Technology Center, Denver) assisted Marilyn Wegweiser (Georgia State College) in the documentation of dinosaur tracks from the Campanian Meeteetse Formation of northern Wyoming. Beth Southwell continues to assist Brent in numerous capacities dealing with vertebrate ichnology, dinosaur paleobiology, Wyoming museology, and the history of fossil collecting in Wyoming. (Brent Breithaupt)

Utah Geological Survey

Research continues at Grand Staircase–Escalante National Monument on the paleontology of the Lower Campanian Wahweap Formation thanks to the BLM. While there is no shortage of microvertebrate lags, as Jeff Eaton and Rich Cifelli can testify, significant identifiable large skeletal remains are quite rare. A fair number of partial ceratopsian skulls appear to be the dominant identifiable element we have observed to date. We are currently working to get helicopter support to lift a fairly complete specimen out of the backcountry. Additionally, we are working with Utah Friends of Paleontology and the University of Utah on a hadrosaurid bone bed from the base of the formation. As the skeletal remains include clearly associated elements, we have high hopes of something diagnostic eventually. Other finds include a pachycephalosaur skullcap and some turtle carapaces. Rarity is one thing, but all the best fossils have been in hard sandstone, so we went out and got a gas-powered diamond saw.

Regarding Kirkland's research in the Early Cretaceous, cooperative work with Scott Madsen at Dinosaur National Monument, Greg Ludvigson at Iowa Geological Survey, and Matt Joeckel at the Nebraska Survey on stable isotopes in paleosol carbonates, has resulted in a potential new dating tool for Aptian–Albian terrestrial strata. Greg is tweaking a manuscript that should be appearing fairly soon on these results. Work is proceeding at a good pace at the Crystal Geyser Dinosaur Quarry thanks to a Quest Grant from Discovery Channel. This bone bed is loaded with skeletons of a new theropod that will become very well known in years to come. University of Utah graduate student Lindsay Zano is working on the forelimbs currently as her thesis project, as we work to interpret the skeleton fully. Kirkland has been looking over Don DeBlieux's shoulder constantly as he prepares the beautiful braincase Martha Hayden found last fall. Harold and Phyllis Bollan of Grand Junction, Colorado, together with their volunteer preparators, are preparing a lot of the material for us. They had done a beautiful job on the material Wolfe and Kirkland described from the Zuni Basin of New Mexico.

The St. George Tracksite has finally been granted the half million that has sat in Congress for the past year and one-half, together with about $800,000 from the city and state, it looks assured that this incredible site will be preserved. A host of people are working on the site including Martin Lockley, Karen Chin, Sid Ash, and Marjory Chan. To see some pictures of the material take a look v. 34(3):4 of *Survey Notes* online at http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/snt34-3.pdf. The site is remarkable, as in addition to beautifully preserved track levels (18) there are associated plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate remains. Construction on a neighboring lot has yielded abundant fish and even some isolated dinosaur remains. City paleontologist Andrew Milner is ecstatic over recovering at least six teeth of the maker of the *Eubrontes*. We do not want to call it *Dilophosaurus* as this site is well below the Kayenta Formation.

A fine pterosaur/sauropod tracksite was found at the Flaming Gorge in a tongue of the Stump Formation at the base of the Morrison Formation during a UGS survey for the Bureau of Reclamation. Sue Ann Bilby and Debra Mickelson are writing up this site. This site is another example of why an eye must be kept on artificial reservoirs as a constant source of important fossils for which the erosional clock is ticking.

Don DeBlieux is investigating a very interesting set of Miocene sites in the Sever River Formation of central Utah. These could turn out to be the most productive sites known in the immediate region of Utah. We are hoping that Barry Albright can give us a hand at putting these sites into context. Finally, Martha Hayden is overseeing digitizing the Utah vertebrate locality database, thanks to assistance from the BLM. Getting all the data into a GIS-compatible format has been a considerable job, but will make this database a much more useful management tool. (Jim Kirkland)

West Coast Region (John M. Harris, editor; jharris@email.usc.edu)

Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP) Paleontology Society volunteers have finished the field season with reconnaissance surveys in the southwestern Borrego Badlands. Members took the Park's paleontology exams in early May, thus ending this season's Paleontology Certification Training Program with a large number of both new and veteran Certified Volunteer Paleontologists now on board.

The subadult mammoth tusks and juvenile basicranial and maxillary skull fragments discovered in spring 2002 were excavated, jacketed, and airlifted by helicopter to the Stout Paleontology Laboratory this February. These specimens present an interesting taphonomic study to determine the possible simultaneous cause of death of the two individuals.

George McDaniel, Jessie Atterholt, Michael Guberek, and Merwyn Carroll attended the Third International Mammoth Conference in Dawson City, Yukon, Canada, this May. George presented

a talk on the phylogeny and chronology of *Mammuthus* in North America, and both he and Jessie Atterholt presented posters on the mammoth discoveries of ABDSP.

McDaniel and George Jefferson's work on the *Mammuthus meridionalis* skeleton from the ABDSP has appeared in the Proceedings of the Second International Mammoth Conference. Jefferson's stratigraphy and paleontology of the late Pleistocene Manix Formation was recently published as a chapter in the Geological Society of America Special Paper 368 on the prehistory of the Mojave River and southern Great Basin.

We continue to welcome visiting researchers. Most recently, Chris Shaw of the George C. Page Museum came to examine our Felidae and Ursidae, and Eric Scott of San Bernardino County Museum has been examining our Equidae.

A team from UC Riverside headed by Mary Droser, under interagency contract with State Parks, has started a project to map and describe the abundant mammalian ichnites in ABDSP. The two-year study will result in a GIS ichnite locality layer and attributes database that will facilitate research and resource management objectives.

The Stout Research Center received a substantial donation in June from Elizabeth Stout to enlarge the collections facility by 100%. The gift was prompted by the offer of a large collection of Miocene invertebrates from the marine Imperial Formation by Susan Kidwell of the University of Chicago. The new building addition is scheduled to hold not only invertebrates but also fossil woods and vertebrate ichnites and casts. Thanks Betty! (G.T. Jefferson)

Occidental College, Los Angeles

The big crop of paleo students at Oxy continues to rack up accomplishments. Jonathan Hoffman, 2003, has gone on to graduate school at the University of Florida. He presented his research on the oreodont *Sespia* at WAVP in Barstow in February, and CalPaleo at the Alf Museum in April, and is now getting it ready for publication. His research on the paleomagnetism of the Hemphillian Rattlesnake Formation in Oregon, on the marine-mammal-bearing Oligocene–Miocene Knappton section of Washington, and the Eocene Tyee Formation of Oregon, are also going through review now. Elizabeth Draus, 2003, will be attending grad school at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, next fall. Her paleomagnetics research on the middle Miocene Mascall Formation of Oregon, and on the marine-mammal-bearing Sooke Formation of British Columbia, the Eocene–Oligocene Makah and Hoko River formations of the northwestern Olympic Peninsula of Washington, and the Eocene–Oligocene Quimper Formation of the northeastern Olympic Peninsula, are all going through review.

Meanwhile, there will be four more VP seniors in the class of 2004. Jingmai O'Connor received a Richter grant to accompany Xiaoming Wang to Mongolia and sample the paleomagnetics of the middle Miocene Tunggur Formation for her senior honors project. She is also working on a new specimen of the mustelid *Sthenictis* from the Tunggur, and will be in the AMNH this summer examining the North American material. Matthew Liter is working on the paleomagnetism of the Round Mountain Siltstone, which contains the Sharktooth Hill bonebed, and also on a new dromomerycid discovered there; he too will be at the AMNH this summer looking at dromomerycids. Francisco Sanchez is doing paleomagnetics work on the Olcese Sand beneath the Round Mountain Siltstone. His honors research project will be another look at the systematics of the Leptaucheniinae in the AMNH this summer. Josh Ludtke has been visiting the LACM and the San Diego Natural History Museum and has nearly completed his revision of the Eocene protoceratid *Leptoreodon*. His paleomagnetic study of the Sespe–Vaqueros formations in Orange and Los Angeles counties is now in press.

Don Prothero received a $40,000 NSF grant to continue his paleomagnetics research. In late May and June, Don and five students (Jingmai O'Connor, Matt Liter, Francisco Sanchez, Josh Ludtke, and Paula Dold) were out in New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming, taking paleomagnetic

samples of several different formations, and doing the "grand tour" of paleontological sites in the Rockies and Plains. In July, Don, Jingmai, Matt, and Francisco will be at the AMNH working on their respective projects.

Don will be on sabbatical in the fall of 2003, and will be working on getting the many recently completed paleomag projects off to press. He also has a book contract with Indiana to do a trade book on the "age of mammals," and a contract with Cambridge to finally publish his long-awaited monograph on the North American Rhinocerotidae (originally completed in 1984).

In April, Don was hired as a lecturer in geobiology at Caltech, teaching paleontology to a record class of undergraduates and graduates. It's the first time that paleontology has been taught at Caltech in over 30 years, and clearly the students were excited about it. Chester Stock died 53 years ago, yet his pioneering work on southern California paleontology has again been picked up at Caltech after a long hiatus—ironically, by a student of Malcolm McKenna, who was in turn Chester Stock's last student.

Finally, all of us at Occidental are excited about the completion of our new physics/geology building, which will have a state-of-the-art paleomagnetics lab, and all modern facilities. After 18 years of struggle to get it built, we finally have a building that we can be proud of, rather than the 1913-vintage building with no elevators or loading access that we're now crammed into. We should be moving in by this fall, and we'll be hosting WAVP next February, and Cal Paleo next April to show it off! (Don Prothero)

University of Oregon

Greg Retallack continues work on paleosols and paleoclimate of the Oregon Neogene, and now has evidence from fossil plants and soils for Mediterranean (summer-dry) paleoclimate in the Oregon Clarendonian (late Miocene). This may explain the dominance of camels and antilocaprids associated with sodic-silicic paleosols of the American West, whereas the calcic paleosols of the Great Plains presumably formed in summer-wet climates have faunas dominated by horses. As Chris Janis has been telling him for years, artiodactyls do more with less than perissodactyls. His paper on death of terminal Permian therapsids of South Africa by mountain sickness, introduced by abstract at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver last year, is now in press with the *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*. Greg has been funded again for a return to the Antarctic Permian–Triassic boundary sections in November–December 2003. Roger Smith of the South African Museum will be joining him in a team of eight which includes two University of Oregon students, Christine Metzger and Nathan Sheldon, and three geochemists, Luann Becker, Robert Poreda, and Danny Glavin.

The Condon Collection of fossils is now to be included in a reorganized and renamed Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, but it is business as usual for loans and visits, still coordinated by Bill Orr.

Ryosuke Motani started a new study funded by an NSF Career Award, titled "Framework for investigating physical evolutionary constraints using three-dimensional data, with application to the plesiosaurian neck." It is a five-year project to examine if the physical constraints from the neck function could explain the observed scaling pattern of the skull and neck in long-necked plesiosaurs. It combines physical experiments and computer simulations, using three-dimensional shape data of fossil and living vertebrate body parts. Equipment involved includes water flume, 3-D scanner, 3-D printer, and mechanical testing stand. Given that even the function of their necks is controversial, the five-year time frame is about as tight as it could be. Ryosuke has already acquired a 3-D laser scanner (Minolta Vivid 910), and mastered the art and skill of digitizing bone shapes. There are some sample scans linked from his home page at http://www.uoregon.edu/_rmotani/. (Ryosuke Motani)

— BULLETIN BOARD —

NEW NSF GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY PROGRAM DEADLINES

The Geology and Paleontology Program deadlines have changed to 15 January and 15 July of each year. If you are submitting a proposal, you should review the new Grant Proposal Guide (NSF-03-2) at http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?gpg. Note that proposals without a separate statement of broader impacts will be returned. Discussion and examples are available at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf022/bicexamples.pdf.

If you have some exciting results to report from your NSF-sponsored research, you can send a message to the NSF press officer at cdybas@nsf.gov.

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

FIRST INTERNATIONAL PHYLOGENETIC NOMENCLATURE MEETING—PARIS, 6–9 JULY 2004

The First International Phylogenetic Nomenclature Meeting will be held in Paris at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (with financial support from the Fondation Hugo of the Collège de France), from 6–9 July 2004. (Please note that the dates announced in the first circular have been changed.) This meeting should be of general interest for biologists because it will constitute an important event in the development of a new code of biological nomenclature. Papers presented at the meeting will be assembled into a symposium volume (after going through a standard refereeing process) whose publication will coincide with the implementation of the PhyloCode. This volume will represent the official starting point of phylogenetic nomenclature as implemented in the PhyloCode, and the names defined within it will be the first ones established under the new code. We hope that specialists on a wide range of organisms will participate in the meeting and contribute to the symposium volume.

The Organizing Committee

Michel Laurin, Chair, CNRS, Paris, France
Fredrik Pleijel, Contact at the MNHN, Paris, France
Armand de Ricqlès, Contact at the Collège de France, Paris, France
Jacques Gauthier, Editor of the Symposium Volume, Yale University, New Haven, USA
Kevin de Queiroz, Editor of the Symposium Volume, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
Jean-François Le Garrec, Treasurer, Paris, France
Tom Artois, Financing, Limburgs Universitair Centrum, Diepenbeek, Belgium
Louise Zylberberg, CNRS, Paris, France
Jackie André, MNHN, Paris, France

Contact information

Michel Laurin
UMR 8570, Evolution et Adaptation des Systèmes Ostéomusculaires
Université Paris 7—Denis Diderot, case 7077
2, place Jussieu, 75005 Paris
E-mail: laurin@ccr.jussieu.fr
Phone: (331) 44 27 36 92
Fax: (331) 44 27 56 53

Important Dates

Congress date Tuesday, 6 July to Friday, 9 July 2004

Registration 6 July 2004
Participants and accompanying persons can register from 9 AM–12 PM at the Aphithéâtre Verniquet of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (57, rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, subway station Jussieu or Gare d'Austerlitz).

Deadlines:
Offers of contributions: February 1, 2004
Submission of abstracts: March 1, 2004

Registration fees (all in Euros):
Regular Participant:
before 1 December 1 2003—70 €
from 1 December 2003 to 1 February 2004—85 €
after 1 February 2004 and on-site registration—100 €

Student:
before 1 December 2003—35 €
from 1 December 2003 to 1 February 2004—55 €
after 1 February 2004 and on-site registration—75 €

Accompanying person: 30 €

Registration fee waivers are available upon request in justified cases (i.e., if you have no grant support to pay the cost of attending the meeting). The organizing committee will decide on a case-by-case basis on the attribution of these waivers.

All refunds will be subject to a 20€ cancellation fee. No refund will be granted after 1 February 2004.

All categories of registration include the opening ceremony, reception, access to the symposium, and food and beverages served during the breaks. All categories of registration except for accompanying persons will receive the program and book of abstracts.

Please note that on-site registration will depend on the availability of seats in the conference room, and that contributions submitted after 1 February 2004 will be possible only if there is still room in the schedule. Such late contributions, if accepted, will be distributed as separate sheets (they will not be integrated to the abstracts booklet).

To receive the second circular (that includes registration information), please contact M. Laurin by e-mail (laurin@ccr.jussieu.fr) and write in the "subject" field of the message "Phylocode 2004 meeting".

— POSITIONS AVAILABLE —

COLLECTIONS MANAGER—VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY, PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, YALE UNIVERSITY

Reporting to the Curators of the Vertebrate Paleontology Division, the Vertebrate Paleontology Collections Manager is responsible for the management of day-to-day activities of the Vertebrate Paleontology collections including all aspects of the growth, maintenance and use of the collections.

Major Duties and Responsibilities: The Vertebrate Paleontology Collections Manager collects, preserves, and enhances vertebrate paleontology collections of historical and scientific significance; manages the day-to-day activities associated with the maintenance of the collections and collection facilities; prepares collections-related grant proposals, including proposals for fieldwork, and prepares annual reports of collection activities; supervises the maintenance of archives associated with collections; assigns duties and oversees the work of museum staff, students and volunteers; develops curatorial systems for vertebrate specimen collections; supervises the computerized and manual cataloguing, care and security of all specimens and associated data; implements recommendations to curators concerning collections growth, maintenance, and use, including exhibit planning, accessions, loans, rights and reproductions, and education programs; and serves as principal source of information concerning the vertebrate paleontology collections for visiting scholars, museum staff, students, faculty, and the public.

Qualifications: Three years collections management experience and a Master's degree, or preferably PhD degree, in biology, geology, or a field closely related to vertebrate paleontology, or equivalent combination of experience and education; extensive experience in collections management, vertebrate paleontology, and field collecting; and effective interpersonal skills and ability to work independently. Supervisory experience preferred. Demonstrated competence in database management, digitization and informatics, fieldwork, and in the writing of grant proposals and reports.

This is a full time position (37.5 hours/week). Yale University offers a highly competitive salary and liberal benefits. Qualified applicants are invited to send a letter of application, resume, and two or three letters of reference to: Susan Voigt, Business Manager, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, 170 Whitney Avenue, P. O. Box 208118, New Haven, CT 06520-8118, or to peabody.jobs@yale.edu. Yale University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

— OBITUARIES —

Mike Williams (July 2003)

THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY BY-LAW ON ETHICS

http://www.vertpaleo.org/policy/ethics.html

SVP SPONSORS AS OF 31 JULY 2003

The following individuals sponsor one or more SVP members by generously paying for their annual dues. If you are interested in becoming an SVP sponsor, please complete the sponsorship application found at:

http://www.vertpaleo.org/svpinfo/sponsorship.pdf (PDF)

http://www.vertpaleo.org/svpinfo/sponsorship.doc (Word document)

J. David Archibald	Christopher J. Bell	Donald Rasmussen
Jason S. Anderson	Michael S. Ginter	Joe D. Stewart

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
ORDER FORM

Use the following link to access the order form:
http://www.vertpaleo.org/svpinfo/MerchPubOrderFm.pdf

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please use one of the following links to access the membership application form:

http://www.vertpaleo.org/svpinfo/application02-03.doc (Word document)

http://www.vertpaleo.org/svpinfo/App02-03.pdf (PDF)

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT AND DEDICATED FUNDS 2003–2004

AS OF 31 JULY 2003

In 1986, the Society established an Endowment Fund to meet the urgent needs of the science as determined annually by the Executive Committee. Initially, the income was applied largely to support the Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates. In recent years, endowment funds have also been used to support other strategic initiatives of the Society. Currently, members may support the dedicated funds of the Society (Patterson, Skinner, Estes, and Romer) in addition to supporting the endowment.

The following list includes contributors to the general endowment fund as well as contributions made to one or more of the Society's dedicated funds for the 2003–2004 fiscal year based on funds and/or written pledges received through 31 July 2003.

PATRON MEMBERS ($1,200 OR MORE)

Joseph F. Chance
John J. Lanzendorf
Hugh Rose

PARTNER MEMBERS ($600–$1,199)

Jason A. Lillegraven

SUSTAINING MEMBERS ($250–$599)

John C. Barry
Anna K. Behrensmeyer
Annalisa Berta
Judd A. Case
Mary R. Dawson
John M. Harris
Michael J. Novacek
David C. Parris
Elizabeth Rega
Judith Schiebout
Gerald E. Schultz
Richard K. Stucky
Stuart S. Sumida
David P. Whistler
Anthony I. Yanko

OTHER DONATIONS

Anna K. Behrensmeyer
Peter Dodson
Nicholas C. Fraser
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William J. Hlavin
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Peter Meylan
Markus Otto
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Blaire Van Valkenburgh